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Weekly Summary

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CONTENTS

April 16, 1976

The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology.

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5 **Western Hemisphere**

Argentina:

Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome. They may be directed to the editor of the Weekly Summary,

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Western Hemisphere

ARGENTINA 36-37

Mounting political violence has emerged as a major headache for President Videla's government.

Dozens of people have died in clashes between forces of the left and the right since the military take-over on March 24. Urban guerrillas are attacking police and security officials, while rightists are beginning a campaign of reprisals that so far has taken over 20 lives.

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On April 13 and 14, terrorists set off a number of powerful bombs near the headquarters of the First Army Corps in Buenos Aires, killed one Argentine executive of a US-based firm, and fired on the home of another, killing his two security guards. In dealing with the renewed violence, the junta must walk a fine line between seeking to carry out Videla's pledge to keep the anti-terrorist effort within legal bounds and doing what is necessary to suppress the violence.

The activities of the right-wing vigilante groups are particularly troublesome for the junta. It was widely believed that such actions were condoned, or perhaps even inspired, by the Peron administration. There is in fact no indication that the new government condones the killings of leftists by off-duty police and security officials.

Even so, the exploits of vigilante groups could quickly dissipate the relative good will the public has shown the military government. The junta needs all the support it can muster at home and abroad to proceed successfully in critical areas like the economy.

Military advocates of harsh repression view the continuation of left-wing violence

President Videla

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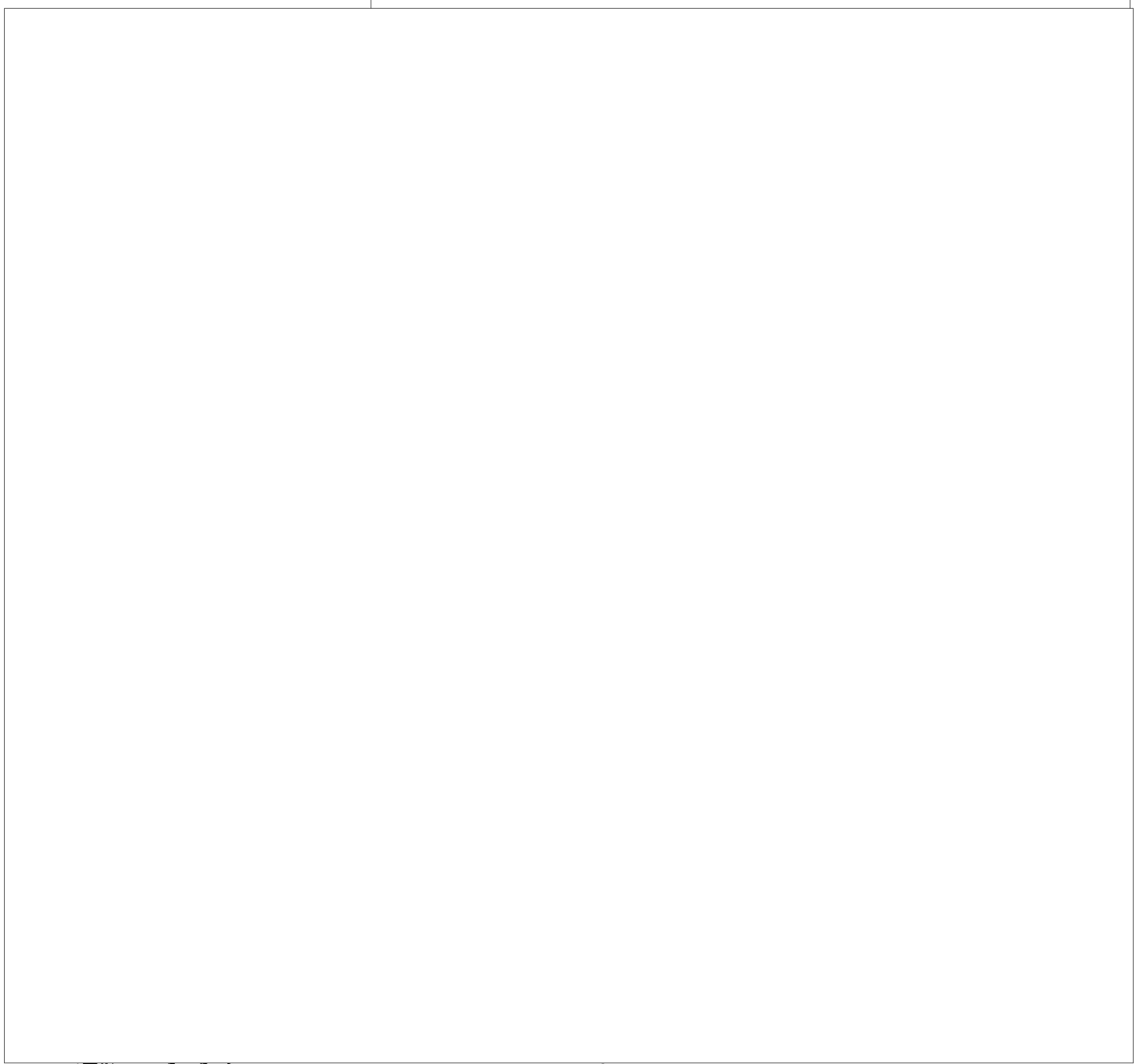
as an argument in favor of the tough measures they have proposed all along. The left hopes to provoke precisely such repression, in the belief that the eventual result would be popular repudiation of the military government.



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